The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Luck has a way of breaking for the fellow who does not depend on it.

TRADE UNION FOES USE TRICKY TERM

At its recent convention the National Association of Manufacturers renewed its faith in the anti-union shop, which it persists in calling the "open" shop.

There is no such thing as an "open" shop. The term is a red herring.

Employers who have spies to report trade union sentiment among workers boast that their plant is "open"—that no distinction is made between union and non-union workers.

If an employer concedes the right of workers to organize, he does not employ spies. An intelligence bureau is not one of his fixed charges. Neither does he assume a guardianship over workers who can—if permitted—care for themselves.

The anti-union employer talks of his high regard for employes. He sells them stock in his corporation. He dictates hours, wages and working conditions. If they are restless, he blacklists the "agitators" and organizes the others into a company "union," writes its constitution and selects its officials. He provides all manner of uplift work—he does everything for them except permit them to order their own lives.

In the anti-union shop the worker is as much a slave as any black man in a southern cotton field. The former does not feel the sting of an overseer's lash, but his degree of independence is practically the same.

This nation is changing from agriculture to industry. These changes are so rapid that no one can predict the revolutions in production methods within the next two decades.

As America perfects an industrial machine now undreamed of, will the wage-workers be numbered units, as are drill presses and lathes? Will their lives be directed by efficiency engineers, as is their every move in factory and shop?

This is what is behind the so-called "open" shop.

The term is an opiate. It is intended to drug workers into fancied independence, as were slaves who were taught to admire their "good master."

The more widely the "open" shop term is accepted, the more difficult it will be for trade unionists to discuss the question in terms of principle—the more difficult to free the issue from hypocrisy and cant.

That is why the National Association of Manufacturers floods the nation with "open" shop literature; why their newspapers popularize the term; why others are encouraged to do likewise.

The anti-unionists understand mass psychology. They know the power of public opinion. They oppose trade unionism, but they are too wise to openly say so in this age of organization.

They know that collective bargaining challenges their autocracy. To maintain that power they confuse the issue with talk of "open" shop and "independence."

There is no such thing as the "open" shop. The men who use this term oppose trade unionism. They would deal with employes as individuals. They would be masters of those whom they employ.

HINDU CASTE SYSTEM URGED BY EDUCATORS

Washington, Nov. 21.—"Institutions of higher learning should be directed to the production of adequate facilities to discover the aptitudes of all applicants and to develop them for the most serviceable causes of which they are capable," declared the Association of Urban Universities at a meeting in this city.

Communities and "organizations supporting institutions of higher learning" are urged to develop a system of figuring out what the student is qualified for.

So-called "intelligence tests" in schools was discussed by the Atlantic City convention of the A. F. of L. The matter was referred to the standing committee on education.

Delegate Olander, representing the International Seamen's union, said that the Hindu caste philosophy runs through this demand for intelligence tests.

"It is the Hindu caste system," he said, "which asserts that every man is put into his occupation by the law of nature, a law of God. That is the arrangement of the caste system in India—the teamsters in the teamsters' caste, the miners in the miners' caste, the sailors in the sailors' caste, and so on up to the priesthood itself, and that is brought over to America under the title of an alleged psychology and inflicted upon our school children."

Delegate Olander said these "alleged scientists are running wild over the United States."

The trade unionist quoted Dr. G. B. Cutten, president of Colgate university, Hamilton, New York, who defended the Hindu caste system in American educational institutions.

"It may be interesting," said Dr. Cutten, "to speculate concerning the effect of mental tests upon the problem of democracy. If the parents' hopes and expectations are realized they will result in a caste system as rigid as that of India, but upon a rational and just basis. We are now examining children in the public schools, and find a range of intelligence from imbecility to genius. We are told that the intelligent quotient of a child rarely changes, so that we are enabled to tell early in life what the limit of intelligence of any person will be, and in a general way to what class or vocation he is best fitted, and, to a certain extent, destined."

MINERS CALL ON OPERATORS TO DISCUSS WAGE CONTRAC"

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—The miners stand now, as they always have, willing to negotiate a wage contract, said John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers.

This statement was issued, Mr. Lewis said, in reply to various claims by the operators. He said the operators now propose to scrap the principle of collective bargaining and would have miners agree blindly to work for wage rates fixed by other persons.

The union official pointed out that the contract expired on August 31. On July 9, or nearly two months prior to the expiration, the miners presented proposals as the basis for a new contract. The operators declined all these proposals and suggested arbitration.

The miners replied that there was plenty of time before the first of September to negotiate a contract. The operators would not negotiate with the miners.

"Whenever the operators are willing for the miners to work out a contract for from one to five years' continuous operation of the mines, the miners stand now and have been prepared to meet them," said President Lewis.

Boston, Nov. 21.—"If anthracite operators oppose strikes in their industry, why have they refused to enter into long-term contracts with the Miners' union?" asked Ellis Searles, editor of the United Mine Workers' Journal, at a meeting under the auspices of the Boston Women's Trade Union league.

In 1922 the miners fought for six months to secure a two-year contract, while the operators insisted on a seven-months' contract, said Mr. Searles. The miners secured a 11-months' contract. President Lewis then proposed that that agreement be extended to 1927 or 1928, but the operators refused.

"The anthracite operators insist that the mine workers submit to arbitration. Arbitrate what? Shall the miner arbitrate the wages he shall receive for risking his life and limb in the mine?

"What would the anthracite operators, who are so loudly declaiming in favor of arbitration, say if the miners were to insist that they submit to arbitration the price at which they sell their coal or the profit which they shall be permitted to make?"

Unionists Oppose Ship Subsidy; Tell Owners To Drop Privilege

Washington, Nov. 21.—If the government abolishes the monopoly granted to shipbuilders, and enforces the seamen's law, there will be no need to subsidize the American merchant marine.

This summarizes a minority report by trade unionists who represented labor in the national merchant marine conference.

Shipping interests and other business men presented a long list of grievances which make it impossible, they say, to compete with foreign vessels.

The unionists deny that higher wages are paid on American vessels and insisted that the evils complained of can be traced to special privileges and a refusal to obey the law.

"Our wages of seamen, as distinct from officers," it is stated, "are slightly lower than the Australian wage, slightly higher than England, Scandinavian countries, Holland and Belgium, and considerably higher than the German wage.

"The mere threat of enforcing the seamen's law has caused Japanese wages to be raised three times in four years. Let the seamen's act be enforced and the differential will not be more than 1 per cent at the most, and the wages of officers will be readjusted by equalization."

The unionists quoted a government report to refute the employers' claim that the United States has stricter laws dealing with inspection, measurements and manning of vessels. The report also denies that more expensive food is required on American vessels in the foreign trade.

The minority report is signed by Frank Morrison, James P. Noonan, James O'Connell, A. J. Berres, George F. Hedrick, Wm. J. Tracy, Andrew Furuseth, Wm. L. Sullivan, Fred W. Baer, E. C. Davison, W. A. James and Clarence Cooper.

LABOR'S PICTURE SHOW SCORES IN MILWAUKEE

Washington, Nov. 21.—The organizing and educational campaign of the A. F. of L. and Union Label Trades department is "packing 'em in," as theatrical folk say. The five picture units are now operating in various sections of the country. This telegram to John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades department, tells of the opening in Milwaukee:

"Labor's Reward' went over big in Milwaukee. Both picture and lecture enthusiastically received. Thousands turned away at opening, necessitating showing a second time immediately at conclusion of first playing. Thank you and through you the A. F. of L. for this splendid undertaking. Henry Ohl, Jr., president Wisconsin State Federation of Labor."

WHY GENERAL DAWES FAVORS SENATE GAG

In favoring a gag on senate debate, General Dawes "let the cat out of the bag" in New York last week. He said that a filibuster defeated the Muscle Shoals bill.

In diplomatic terms, General Dawes assured his select audience that if the bill could be jammed through the senate, as in the house, one of the country's greatest water power projects would now be in control of private exploiters.

This is the first time General Dawes has acknowledged why the senate rules should be changed. Heretofore he has indulged in generalities.

In the next congress a reduction of surtaxes, repeal of the publicity of income taxes and abolition of the inheritance tax will be favored by the general's friends. Too much discussion will not help these plans.

The Teapot Dome scandal will be reopened, as will several other embarrassing subjects.

These will be thoroughly aired in the senate. In the house this is impossible under the rules.

Here is the reason for opposition to the senate rules which permit the public to become acquainted with matters of vital interest to them.

Opponents of the senate rules don't like talk, discussion, publicity. Silence is essential to their business.

EMPLOYERS ARE OUT OF DATE; "DEAD HAND" RULES BUSINESS

Worcester, Mass., Nov. 21.—The dead hand of the past rules New England's industries "and sometimes too much of our politics," said Louis K. Liggert, Boston business man, at a conference of 100 delegates, representing New England's commercial and industrial interests.

The delegates frankly discussed backward policies and viewpoints of industrial leaders, who generally satisfy themselves with conveniently placing their troubles on trade unionism.

Textile manufacturers in the east have been telling the public that high wages has ruined their business and driven it to the south. Louis E. Kerr, vice president of William Filene's Sons company, Boston, ignored this claim and said that the slump in New England's textiles is caused by a lack of merchandising vision by manufacturers, who make the same kind of goods year after year without paying any attention to the public's desires.

Secretary of Commerce Hoover said there "has been a tendency in certain older, more settled industries toward what might be called absentee administration."

It was stated that New England has many manufacturing industries whose inherited management has not kept pace with competition, and by reason of the traditions handed down to them, believe that the original policies of the company are what should be maintained and that those policies should govern.

"Too many are selling the public what they think the public should have rather than to manufacture what the public wants," said Dr. Liggett. "No man has the right to take a business and feel that he is successful simply because he maintains profits. That is milking. We have too many directors who do not direct." Other speakers said that there is almost universal present trustees of inheritances that are independent of the management of the business.

BAY STATE MILLS SEEK 54-HOUR WEEK

Fall River, Mass., Nov. 21.—Textile manufacturers declare that a return to the 54-hour week is necessary to save New England's textile industry from southern competition.

This announcement follows a conference of New England business men in Worcester, Mass., who agreed that this section of the country is afflicted with the "dead hand" of tradition, absentee management and a refusal to meet the public's demands.

President McMahon of the United Textile Workers said that New England textile employers are operating plants 50 and even 100 years old. These plants, he said, lack the guiding hand of the modern executive and merchandising man.

"Southern textile manufacturers have installed the latest equipment. They have introduced up-to-the-minute management and efficiency methods. They have taken up modern merchandising and sales ideas and if they sell more goods it is not surprising," he said.

Other officers of the Textile union say the employers' long-work week demand is intended to check any attempt to improve conditions. The unionists call attention to this statement in the current issue of the American Woolen and Cotton Reporter:

"We would have had a 44-hour week in Massachusetts before this had it not been for the urgent striving of manufacturers and others for a return of the 54 hours."

LOWER WAGES IN SOUTH

Huntersville, N. C., Nov. 21.—The Anchor textile mills has cut wages from 5 to 12 per cent. Employes who refuse to accept the reduction are being evicted from company houses. Wages were also reduced by this concern in September last year.

FOOD PRICES INCREASE

Washington, Nov. 21.—Food prices continue their upward march, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics. Since one year ago, food prices have advanced over 5½ per cent. During the period September 15 to October 15, this year, food prices increased in 50 representative cities. Boston, Los Angeles, Manchester, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh led with a 3 per cent gain. The smallest increase was less than five-tenths of 1 per cent, in Atlanta, Cincinnati and Salt Lake City.

The single city that reported a decrease was Butte, with 1 per cent.

EGG DEALERS GOUGE

New York, Nov. 21.—Egg dealers gouge the people of this city of more than $6,000,000 annually by selling storage eggs for "strictly fresh."

MILK DRIVERS RAISE WAGES

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 21.—A wage increase of $10 a month has been secured by organized milk wagon drivers.

UNION SHOP UPHELD; CAR MEN WIN STRIKE

Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 21.—District Judge Meyer has upheld a union shop agreement between the Street Car Men's union and the local street car company. He also sustained a city ordinance making it unlawful for the company to operate one-man cars. The workers have been on strike to enforce their agreement.

The court swept aside technicalities by the company's attorneys, who insisted that the union contract was void because there was no consideration.

"It is sufficient to say that this being a written instrument the law presumes simply a consideration and the evidence is not such as would warrant a holding that there was none," the court said.

HEAVY DAMAGES TO WIDOW

Seattle, Nov. 21.—An award of $20,000 against the International Stevedoring company was returned by a jury for Ida Kahlstrom for the death of her husband. This is the heaviest damages that a widow has secured in the local courts for several years.

Nation's Brains and Opinions Are Liable To Be "Fordized"

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 21.—The American tendency "to Fordize the brains and opinions of the nation" was condemned by President Glenn Frank of the University of Wisconsin, in an address to public school teachers of this state.

"The doctrine of majority rule was not intended as a silencing device," said President Frank. "It is only a method by which we may settle contests until further discussion finds a better solution.

"Let us remember that doctrines that have grown too old are as dangerous as theories and doctrines that are too new.

"We no longer burn our heretics; we fire them. If a school teacher holds a set of ideas of a later vintage than 1776 his contract is usually not renewed."

President Frank advised educated Americans to acquire a cynical attitude toward uplift.

He said that the Golden Rule is a command to mind your own business, but it is often taken as a roving commission for busybodies.

OIL WELL MACHINERY LACKS SAFEGUARDS

Washington, Nov. 21.—More than one-fifth of the total days lost by oil workers can be traced to the lack of safety devices, according to the United States bureau of mines.

"Many of these accidents can be avoided by installing proper safeguards," it is stated. "Oil well machinery safeguards are relatively simple, are inexpensive to construct and install, and when once installed are an integral part of the draw-works machinery, movable with the drilling outfit from one location to another."

LEATHER WORKERS GAIN

Chicago, Nov. 21.—Pocket Book Makers' union has unionized nine large shops in the last three months.

Fascisti Would Follow Emigrant; Mussolini Builds World-Spy Plan

Washington, Nov. 21.—The Fascisti government of Italy demands that when citizens of that country emigrate they must maintain the ideals of Fascismo, rather than those of their adopted country.

Rome newspapers give much publicity to a meeting of the Congress to Force Fascismo, held in Rome, under the auspices of the Mussolini government. More than 500 delegates were present. A special train, paid by the government, was placed at their disposal.

General Secretary Bastianini, of the congress, called for the establishment of newspapers in every Italian center in foreign countries. "Fascismo," he said, "must have its hand in foreign countries, the same way it has at home."

The delegates agreed that it was necessary to keep in close touch with Italian emigrants and use them, through the medium of daily newspapers, to protect the foreign policy of the Fascisti government in the countries in which they reside.

Under this policy the Americanization of Italian emigrants will be halted by a dare not issued by the Italian government.

American citizens of Italian birth who oppose the dictatorship of Mussolini, declare that the Fascisti government now maintains propaganda bureaus in the United States, and that every effort is being made to encourage the Fascisti ideal among Italian people who reside here.

That Mussolini is determined to increase his power over Italians who leave that country is indicated by recent cables from Rome. A law pending in the Italian parliament would permit the government to confiscate property of any Italian residing in another country who "plots" against Italy. Any agitation against Mussolini will be classed as "plotting." The pending law gives all power to Mussolini. Parliament will surrender every right to initiate measures and writing or speaking again Mussolini will be a penal offense.

"What is Fascism?" is answered by Martyn Hemphill, writing in the New York World, last week:

"The essence of Fascism is absolutism. The government is supreme. Discipline is the keynote. The people must bow before it and accept it and dare not question it; the king must worship it; the parliament must do its bidding and refrain from criticism. In international expansion. An international movement for the fostering of more or less rabid nationalism is not a sound proposition. Fascism is revolutionary. Large numbers of Italians hate it because it is a rich man's government. It denies the freedom of the press. It is not any too tolerant of the freedom of speech. It ridicules democracy."

EMPLOYERS' THUGS ASSAULT UNIONISTS

San Francisco, Nov. 21.—Organized workers are circulating copies of two affidavits by gunmen employed by the anti-union Industrial association who confess to slugging trade unionists. One thug swears he was paid $50 for one job by the notorious "Black Jack" Jerome, strikebreaker and all-round thug. The other gunman says he was paid $150 a month, with extras "for effective work."

UNION LABEL DEMAND EFFECTIVE IN TOLEDO

Toledo, Ohio, Nov. 21.—Anti-unionists in this city are worried. The demand for union-made goods has increased as a result of the organizing and educational campaign of the A. F. of L. and Union Label Trades department.

A union label council has been organized, and at no time have local trade unionists been more determined to centralize their purchasing power.

The anti-unionists and their informers within the ranks of labor can not cope with this situation, and they are encouraging merchants to frown on the label agitation by suggesting: "This is the best grade with the union label on, but we have higher and better grades without the label."

This permits these merchants to dispose of their prison-made, low-wage and sweatshop goods."

NON-UNIONISTS WRECK MILE-LONG COAL TRAIN

Cumberland, Md., Nov. 21.—The Western Maryland railroad employed strikebreakers when its engineers and firemen suspended work because of wage reductions. The result: Two men facing a $500,000 wreck because of the strikebreakers' incompetency.

The strikebreaking engineer did not know how to operate air brakes and a coal train one mile long got away from them on a mountain a few miles west of here. Racing down the steep grade, the cars jumped the track. The mountain is strewn with coal and smashed cars. The train men jumped for their lives when they realized the train was beyond their control. The railroad management is stunned over the wreck, which is charged to "a leakage of air."

FIGHT LOOMS ON SENATOR

Washington, Nov. 21.—Governor Sorlie of North Dakota has appointed Gerald P. Nye as the successor to the late United States Senator Ladd, and a warm contest is expected over the appointee in the senate is predicted.

The administration opposes Mr. Nye, who is a non-partisan league Republican. He supported the candidacy of Senator La Follette for president.

Opposition to Mr. Nye centers on an interpretation of the seventeenth amendment to the constitution, which provides that a vacancy in the senate shall be filled by election, but a state legislature may empower the governor to appoint temporarily. The North Dakota legislature has not passed a measure for that specific purpose. Senate defenders of the appointee will take advantage of the situation to call the nation's attention to what they term the autocracy of the senate majority, whom, they insist, would punish the appointee for his political independence.

BREAD MERGER GROWS

Washington, Nov. 21.—The federal trade commission will hear additional testimony on the proposed bread merger, and this extension of time will permit the merger to strengthen itself, according to Huston Thompson, member of the commission.

Mr. Thompson says there is no occasion for further hearings and insists that the commission act on the evidence now before it. He says the holding corporation of the bread trust has added three companies to the 14 corporations it previously controlled, and that this "gives every indication of a growing and continuing tendency toward monopoly."

Post Office Is For People's Service; Steel Trust Methods Can't Apply

Washington, Nov. 21.—Postmaster General New indicates a sympathy for the theory that the post office department should be conducted on the same basis as the steel trust, although profits is the basis of one and service the other.

Writing in the Nation's Business, published by the United States chamber of commerce, Mr. New says it is impossible to apply steel trust methods in the post office because appropriations come through congress, while Judge Gary and a board of directors are supreme in the steel trust.

"Just picture steel trust methods in the post office," said Leo George, president of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

"The first thing that would be done by a business department, after the long work day and seven-day week were established, would be to abolish the rural free delivery service. Then in turn all of those routes in the entire country that are self-sustaining.

"The next thing would be abolishment of the city free deliveries, except in business districts, and even less frequent. Steel trust methods would demand that the people call for their mail at the post office as less carriers would mean economy.

"All air mail service would be abolished, because of large expenditures in excess of income.

"There would be no franked mail and government departments would be charged for the educational matter that flows to the people. Education and intellectual development would be subordinated to the steel trust's ideal of dividends."

"Mr. George said most people are unacquainted with the extent of the department's activities outside of handling mail. At the present time, he said, there are more than 10,000 of these employes serving as civil service secretaries in examinations of citizens who would enter the government employ.

"Every department of the government," he said, "is aided by the post office department, whether it be tracking criminals or developing patriotism."

To cite one instance of aid to other departments: During the world war the government wanted to know the number of hogs on the farms in this country. The matter was turned over to the rural delivery section of the post office, and in a few days every hog from coast to coast was counted, in that one task. Millions of dollars that would be spent in the erection of vast machinery to compile this information."

President George disagreed with the claim that the post office deficit is increased by increases to employes. He said that the deficit of $80,000,000 in 1921 was reduced to $24,000,000 in 1924.

"This year's deficit," he continued, "is $39,000,000, —which Postmaster General New charges to increased wages. This year's deficit is $15,000,000 more than last year, in spite of the fact that $34,000,000 was added to salaries of employes. This indicates that $19,000,000 has been absorbed by employes' increased efficiency."

ITALY'S WAR DEBT CUT BY UNCLE SAM

Washington, Nov. 21.—The United States government did not cancel the Italian war debt, but 80 per cent of it was marked off in the negotiations between war debt commissions of both countries.

The agreement provides that Italy will pay to the United States a principal amount of $2,042,000,000 over a period of 62 years, with interest averaging about nine-tenths of 1 per cent during the last 57 years. This total amount will be $2,407,000,000.

It is believed that these terms will head off France against opening the debt compensation fix by private companies has scared advocates of this plan. Secretary Hughes, who is far from a recognized friend of labor, has vetoed the proposal. He says it is "unnecessary and inadvisable."

ROCK DUST IS MENACE TO MINERS' HEALTH

Washington, Nov. 21.—The menace of lung diseases contracted by miners as the result of breathing extremely fine dust particles is again emphasized by the United States bureau of mines. The most important of these diseases is silicosis, also known as miners' phthisis, or miners' consumption, which is caused by the breathing of rock dust, especially fine silica.

Investigations by the bureau of mines reveals that silicosis is present in many mining districts. In one district 432 miners were examined and had silicosis. In another district 432 out of 1,018 examined were afflicted. Men having silicosis are more susceptible to tuberculosis than normal men.

The bureau says this disease can be eliminated if coal operators improve working conditions.

GIANT ELECTRIC TRUST FACES FEDERAL PROBE

Washington, Nov. 21.—Under authority of a senate resolution, the federal trade commission will investigate the General Electric company, one of the most powerful corporations in the United States. The company is linked up, through subsidiaries, with a score of countries in every section of the world.

It is charged that General Electric acts as a holding company for the Electric Bond and Share company, and that the latter controls 125 power corporations.

The investigation follows the successful fight Senator Norris made in the last congress against turning Muscle Shoals over to this combination.

A majority of the federal trade commission refused to conduct the probe on the ground that they are only bound by acts of congress, and not by a senate resolution. Attorney General Sargent reversed this decision.

WILL CHINESE BUILD AMERICAN GUNBOATS?

Washington, Nov. 21.—Trade unionists have gone on record against American gunboats being built in China by a foreign firm employing coolies. The navy department says this will save $1,000,000.

A trade union delegation filed a protest with Secretary of the Navy Wilbur. The unionists were headed by A. J. Berres, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. metal trades department, and President Alifas of the navy yard district, International Association of Machinists.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 21.—44-hour week and a minimum wage of $1.15 an hour has been secured by Electrical Workers' union No. 214. These workers are employed by fixture and chandelier dealers.